

Domestic Wells: Chemicals and Test Methods

Compound	Drinking Water Standard	DLR ¹	Typical Test Method(s)
BACTERIA INDICATORS			
Total Coliform	Present ⁴	Not Applicable	EPA ² Method 1604, SM ³ 9223B, SM ³ 9221B; IDEXX Labs Methods (Colilert, Colisure, Quanti-tray)
Fecal Coliform	Present ⁴		EPA Method 1680; IDEXX Labs Methods (Colilert, Colisure, Quanti-tray); others
GENERAL MINERALS & IONS			
Nitrate	45 mg/L ⁴	2.0 mg/L	EPA 353.2, EPA Method 9210; Anions by EPA Method 300
Perchlorate	6 µg/L ⁴	4.0 µg/L	EPA Method 314.0
Chloride	500 mg/L ⁵	1 mg/L	Anions by EPA Method 300
Sulfate	500 mg/L ⁵	0.5 mg/L	Anions by EPA Method 300
Total Dissolved Solids	1,000 mg/L ⁵	10 mg/L	EPA General Methods
METALS ⁹			
Aluminum	1,000 µg/L ⁴	50 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Arsenic	10 µg/L ⁴	2 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Chromium	50 µg/L ⁴	10 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Mercury	2 µg/L ⁴	1 µg/L	EPA Method 245.1
Iron	300 µg/L ⁵	100 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Lead	15 µg/L ^{6, 7}	5 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Manganese	50 µg/L ⁵	20 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Selenium	50 µg/L ⁴	5 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.8 or 200.9
Thallium	2 µg/L ⁴	1 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, 200.9
Vanadium	50 µg/L ⁶	3 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
Zinc	5,000 µg/L ⁵	50 µg/L	EPA Methods 200.7, 200.8, or 200.9
ORGANICS			
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	Varies by compound	Varies by compound	EPA Method 524.2
DBCP ⁸	0.2 µg/L ⁴	0.01 µg/L	EPA Method 524.2 or 504.1

RADIONUCLIDES

Gross Alpha	15 pCi/L ⁴	3 pCi/L	EPA Methods 9310, 900; SMWW 7110
Radium 226+228	5 pCi/L ⁴	1 pCi/L	Radium 226: EPA Methods 9315, 903.0; Radium 228: EPA Methods 9320, 904.0
Uranium	20 pCi/L ⁴	1 Ci/L	EPA Methods 908.0, 908.1

Notes:

1. DLR = Detection Limit for Reporting. The testing procedure must be able to resolve concentrations of a particular chemical at this level in order for CDPH and/or the US EPA to accept the results.
2. EPA - US Environmental Protection Agency
3. SM = Standard Method
4. MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
5. SMCL = Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level
6. NL = Notification Level
7. NL cannot be exceeded in more than 10% of the samples at the tap.
8. Other names for this chemical include: Dibromochloropropane and 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane
9. For other metals not specifically listed, generally use EPA Method 200.7
10. For additional questions, please call GAMA Program Manager John Borkovich at 916-341-5779